

Town of Arlington
Town Meeting Procedures Committee
March 31, 2023

Call to order: The meeting of the Town Meeting Procedures Committee was called to order by Town Moderator Greg Christiana via online video conferencing on Friday, March 31, 2023, at 11:32

Quorum: A quorum was present: Adam Auster, Greg Christiana, Rebecca Gruber, and Christopher Moore.

Public Comments:

- No public comments were offered.

Minutes of Prior Meetings:

March 23, 2023:

Moved approval: Mr. Auster

Seconded: Ms. Gruber

Vote: unanimous

Old Business:

Warrant Article for Hybrid Town Meeting Study Committee:

Ms. Gruber submitted the Special Town Meeting warrant article on March 30, 2023.

Proposed Motion for Hybrid Study Committee:

Mr. Christiana shared that changes in state law are coming that may broaden the ability for Town Meetings to occur in a hybrid format. It is unclear how this will be interpreted and whether it will give us the ability to have a hybrid Town Meeting independent of a finding that Town Meeting cannot convene safely. Discussion:

- Under what circumstances do we want to permit/encourage remote attendance at TM?
- What is the purpose of remote TM?
- What level of detail is important for the committee's charge in the motion?

The committee discussed the current draft of the Hybrid Study Committee draft motion and Mr. Auster's memo on the same (both provided in the meeting materials). The discussion included:

- What are the essential features of "participation in Town Meeting" for a remote member? These might include some combination of being counting toward quorum, voting, and participating in debate (including making a motion).
- The relative merits of simplicity vs. specificity in the charge to the committee
- Reports that the committee should provide to Town Meeting
- Instructions to the committee about soliciting public input on its work
- Positive and negative impacts of hybrid Town Meeting on how well it functions

A working group composed of Mr. Auster and Ms. Gruber was formed to make further edits to the proposed motion for review at the next meeting of the committee.

Procedures for Amendments and Substitute Motions:

The committee discussed procedures for amendments and substitute motions including:

- the 48-hour rule, electronic vs. paper distribution of motions, distribution to the seats vs. copies in the back of the room, etc.
- scope of debate from proponents of amendments and substitute motions

New Business:

There was a brief discussion of the Consent Agenda and whether resolutions belong on the consent agenda.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 1:13pm.

Moved: Mr. Moore

Seconded: Mr. Auster

Christopher Moore